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Foreign Broadcast
Information Service

NEWSLETTER

Edition 86-5

1 September 1986

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NOTICE

Field Bureaus are reminded that copies of this Newsletter should be destroyed after reading by U.S. Staff employees. This Newsletter is not to be retained in field bureaus.

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NEWSLETTER1 September 1986

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FIELD MODERNIZATION

Austrian Bureau's first full month of operating its new local area network (LAN) saw items totaling some 130,000 words processed and filed by computer, with no repunching by the communications section required. Problems with the system were minimal, although some aspects of administering the system soon were found to be fairly time consuming. The bureau is coordinating feedback on the system with ADD. []

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Based on the success of the Vienna project, Headquarters has decided that the Automated FBIS System (AFS) will use the LAN approach in all bureaus. This decision is expected to result in a 30-40% cost savings over the original estimates for bureau automation. ADD and the AFS contractor, Lockheed Electronics, are continuing their prototyping work in Vienna and have put the incoming English language press agencies onto the computer network. The next major design step is an experiment in doing all editing on the computer. []

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Antwerp Unit had its first PC-to-PC file transfer with Headquarters on 23 July. Using IBM Running Crosstalk software, the method proved completely viable. The unit believes this technique could prove to be a very convenient means of coordinating articles or reports for "S&T Perspectives," for example; items could be exchanged in draft. In addition, use of an electronic mail system could reduce telephone costs. []

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With the cost of an IBM-compatible PC in Hong Kong now equivalent to that of an IBM Selectric III, the bureau purchased five PC's to replace worn-out typewriters. Four were installed in the Chinese monitorial area and one in Editorial. After in-house training, the PC's were being used full time. Three are on moveable tables so they can be rolled to the desk of the user. Editors have begun to work with translations in soft copy, producing hard copy for the teletypists. []

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HEADQUARTERS AUTOMATION

During the summer Lockheed has been working on building the Unclassified Segment. Users from JPRS, Daily Reports, and the Wire are making trips to Plainfield, New Jersey (home of Lockheed) to try out the editing system. The main area of software development is in communications; Lockheed is writing the software to "talk" to AUTODIN, receive translations from the independent contractors and "read" the headers on incoming messages to send them to the right people. ☐

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GULF BUREAU CLOSURE

FBIS officially closed Gulf Bureau as of 30 July, when collection activities ceased. Communications closed down on 13 August. The bureau had been in operation nearly 7 years. Some residual administrative activity connected with the closing is continuing for a few weeks. ☐

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SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

At the request of State, a NEAD officer served as official interpreter for four leaders of the Afghan Resistance Alliance during their 6-day official visit to Washington and meetings with President Reagan, Secretary of State Schultz, Senate and House leaders and several other high-ranking U.S. officials. ☐

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Media analysis on Egypt came to the attention of various officials. An article entitled "Cairo Claims Success for U.S.-Egyptian Talks," a PDB staffer said, was read with interest and commented on by Defense Secretary Weinberger. Since the subject was to be a front-burner issue during Vice President Bush's visit to Cairo, a copy of the article was also provided to the Bush party before they departed Washington. ☐

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Another analysis report on the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood was the subject of a cable received from the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. The item was commended as "a model of superb reporting and analysis, on a difficult issue, based purely on unclassified sources." ☐

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Responding to numerous Community requests, the MOD Visual Media Center expedited the delivery of Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi's Evacuation Day speech carried on Libyan television and monitored from satellite in London. The center made special videotapes of the speech for State and Pentagon analysts. A tape also was provided for the Office of Information Resources, which held a special screening for Headquarters analysts. ☐

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At the request of DDI/NESA Libya analysts, a NEAD officer accompanied them to the White House Situation Room on 29 July for showing and review of the tape of Al-Qadhdhafi's speech. During the session, which lasted about an hour, the NEAD officer helped the group follow the televised speech, using the translation done by London Bureau, and answered questions on specific parts of the speech. [redacted]

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TELEVISION DEVELOPMENTS

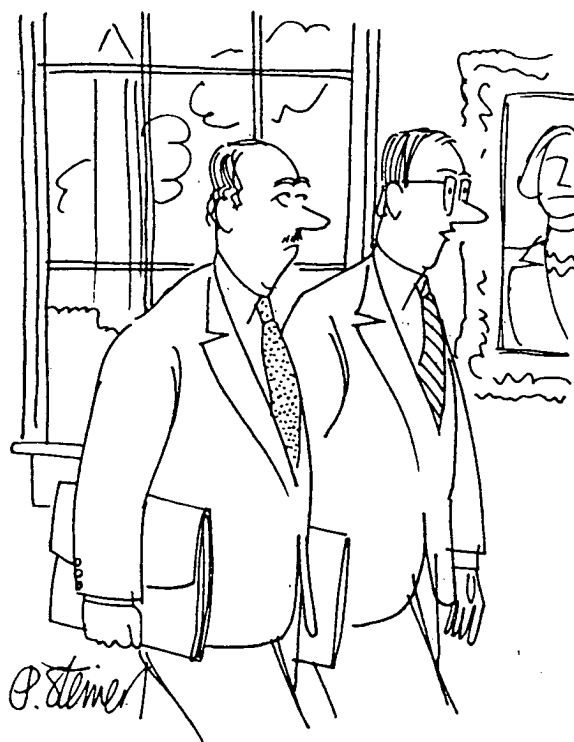
[redacted] MOD was able to use the Headquarters TVRO antenna to intercept live television coverage of the inauguration of a Soviet-built satellite earth station in Nicaragua. The live transmission was carried on a Soviet Gorizont satellite. Later in the week, on 19 July, the same satellite relayed live coverage of the Sandinist revolution anniversary ceremonies, including a speech by Nicaraguan President Ortega. OIR arranged a special Saturday viewing of the live coverage for interested analysts. [redacted]

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On 15 July Bangkok and Okinawa were able to use their satellite antennas to monitor live TV coverage of funeral services for Vietnamese leader Le Duan. Videotapes were sent to Headquarters by air express for viewing by analysts. [redacted]

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"Everybody's somebody's contra."

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OUR OWN HONG KONG BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Amazing Grace Elephant Co., Ocean Terminal
Come On Co., Tai Po
Companion Reptile Co., Ltd., Kowloon
Crocodile Garments Ltd., Connaught Rd.
Ever Improve Trading Co. (HK), Ltd., Watsons Estate
Familiar Children's Boutique, Tsim Sha Tsui Center
Fair and Square Co., Ltd., Kowloon
Jolly Sound Ltd., Kowloon
Lee Kee Boot and Shoe Mfr., Kowloon
Long Time Co., Nathan Rd.
Non-Stop Trading Co., Mongkok
Pompous Watch Co., 213 Landmark
Sik Sik Cafe, Upper Paktin Rd.
White House Ballroom, Tai Wong St.
Wonderful Horse Co, Canton Rd. ☐

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FBIS RESERVISTS AT DONOVAN CEREMONY

Three FBIS military reservists, members of the Agency's Joint Military Reserve Training Command, participated in the 2 June ceremony in the Auditorium honoring Gen. William Donovan, director of the OSS and founder of the CIA. Reservists from FBIS were ☐ Army Reserve (DRD), ☐ Air Force Reserve (UD), and ☐ Army Reserve (UD). At the ceremony, members of New York's "Fighting 69th" Regiment, Donovan's World War I unit, presented his Medal of Honor and other military effects to the Agency. Speakers included the DCI, Senator Moynihan, and Allied military attaches. The ceremony opened a month-long exhibition commemorating the wartime experiences of General Donovan and was intended to help foster a better understanding among employees of the lineage of the Agency. ☐

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FROM THE BUREAUS

Senator Chic Hecht (R., Nev.), member of the Select Committee on Intelligence, visited London Bureau on 1 July as part of his trip to the United Kingdom. Following a full walkthrough of FBIS and BBC operations, the bureau chief briefed the senator on FBIS, its relations with the BBC, and the role of the bureau as primary monitor of USSR open media. ☐

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South African Government restrictions on the press have had a sharp impact on Swaziland Bureau coverage. From a record high of 674,000 words in May, bureau wordage dropped to 621,000 in June, still the second highest total ever for the bureau. With the restrictions, virtually all independent reporting on the unrest in South Africa dried up. Sources like the SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION reduced their reporting to government announcements or occasional statements by police officials. Antigovernment group leaders, who previously were quoted frequently, are no longer cited, with the exception of Bishop Tutu. Reports from the parliament were halted, and both news reporting and editorial comment by papers covered at the bureau are affected. []

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Seoul Bureau is now receiving high-quality videotapes of Pyongyang television after a period of frustration involving equipment, recording difficulties, and antenna connection problems. The bureau began filing VSL's 21 June from recordings made by duty personnel attached to the Joint Duty Office in the Joint Security Area at Panmunjom. The tapes are delivered by UN Command couriers to Seoul the next morning after transmission. []

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Seoul has its first chief monitor as of June: [] the second employee hired when the bureau was established in 1976, was named to the position. []

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Construction of the new Nicosia Bureau is continuing steadily, with the focus recently on electrical work, interior plastering and door and window framing in the main building, and ongoing work on the perimeter wall and the parking area. The project continues to draw occasional comment in the local press, one example being a report in the 21 July communist party KHARAVYI TIS DHEVTERAS citing the local party secretary general's remarks on the U.S. construction of a "large radio-receiving espionage station near the Makarios stadium." []

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Also at Nicosia Bureau, Turkish press monitor [] retired, for the second time, on 31 July after a total of 35 years' service with FBIS. []

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In an attempt to further enhance the security of Bangkok Bureau, arrangements have been made to station a uniformed guard just outside the elevators on the Penthouse floor of the Kian Guan Building to control access to the area and to screen visitors. The guard is from the same firm that provides security services to the Embassy. []

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Soviet leader Gorbachev's first, extended visit to the Soviet Far East, primarily Vladivostok and Khabarovsk, triggered voluminous television satellite feeds from Vladivostok to Moscow which were monitored by Okinawa Bureau. Some of the material was shown as much as 11 hours later in Moscow. One feed contained at least 20 unedited minutes of Gorbachev speaking to local officials and party members, which was not broadcast in Moscow. []

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An unusual Moscow Television "Studio 9" program on 15 July -- nearly 2 weeks ahead of schedule, 50 percent longer than normal, and featuring the first appearance ever of Western political figures on this program since it debuted in 1978 -- required overnight extra staffing by Okinawa Bureau. AG did a special analysis on the program, describing it as evidence of a dramatic relaxation in Soviet restraints on airing Western views and as breaking new ground by inviting Britain's David Owen and West Germany's Egon Bahr to participate. []

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Typhoon Vera, described by local media as the strongest to hit in 14 years, brought heavy winds and rain to Okinawa on 25-27 August, killing one person and blacking out a large portion of the island. Bureau operations were not impaired but personnel were held over for extra shifts when the FBIS bus was "grounded". []

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